

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Rinderpest (Cattle Plague)

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1. [redacted] the cattle plague (rinderpest) existed in the Georgian Republic of the USSR in 1928. I visited anti-cattle-plague veterinary stations in Georgia and other border countries during that time.

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2. [redacted] along the entire border of the USSR a special quarantine zone exists. The zone is approximately 150 kilometers in depth on both sides of the border. Within this zone are special quarantine stations with complete veterinary facilities. All cattle which enter this zone or which are located permanently within the zone are subjected to a systematic veterinary inspection by Russian veterinarians. Further, cattle located in the interior of the USSR can enter this zone only after being immunized by an anti-rinderpest vaccine. All diseased cattle and all those suspected of being diseased are transported by rail to the nearest slaughter house where they are immediately killed. After such a trip, all freight cars carrying cattle are thoroughly disinfected.

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3. Because of this method, [redacted] plagued cattle exist in this zone constantly but are isolated and kept from the rest of the USSR. By the same token, [redacted] plagued cattle are also contained within the 150 kilometer quarantine zone beyond the borders of the USSR.

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4. Throughout the entire length of this quarantine zone there are many large centers or stations called Anti-Cattle Plague Points. [redacted] four such stations:

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- a. Tabakmelakh, near Tbilisi in Georgia; for service on the Turkish Border
- b. Zurnabady, near Baku in Azerbaidzhan; for service on the Iranian border
- c. Kushka; for service on the Afghanistan border
- d. Chita; for service on the Mongolian border

5. In order to produce an effective vaccine, it is necessary to have a constant supply of fresh cattle plague virus. From time to time this is obtained from diseased cattle. It is also possible to cultivate this virus in young calves.

6. From these facts [redacted] rinderpest exists at all times along the borders of the USSR but that it is contained within this 300 mile wide quarantine zone. Otherwise, why the existence of the special zone, the special large anti-cattle plague centers, the receiving stations, the vaccine producing centers, and the quarantine points?

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